

**International Mobile Satellite Organization**

**ASSEMBLY**

Nineteenth (Extraordinary) Session

5 – 6 March 2007

**Agenda item 4**

ASSEMBLY/19/4

Origin: Director

Date: 24 January 2007

**RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

<b><i>Executive Summary:</i></b>	this document discusses IMSO's relations with International Hydrographic Organization (IHO), the European Commission and CIRM
<b><i>Action to be taken:</i></b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. to note that the Agreement of Cooperation with IHO was signed on 5 December 2006;</li><li>2. to note that the Director will negotiate appropriate Agreements of Cooperation with the European Commission and CIRM, for approval at a future session of the Assembly; and</li><li>3. in accordance with Rule 5 of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly, to invite the European Commission and CIRM to attend this and, on a reciprocal basis, future Sessions of the Assembly, as Observers.</li></ol>
<b><i>Related documents:</i></b>	None

**1 AGREEMENT OF COOPERATION WITH THE INTERNATIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC ORGANIZATION (IHO)**

1.1 At its Eighteenth Session, the Assembly approved the text of an Agreement of Cooperation between the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) and IMSO, and authorized the Director to sign the Agreement (paragraph 13.4 and Annex XV of ASSEMBLY/18/Record of Decisions refer).

1.2 The Assembly is invited to note that the Agreement of Cooperation was signed on 5 December 2006 by the President of the Directing Committee for IHO and the IMSO Director.

## 2 RELATIONS WITH THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

2.1 The Director has received an informal enquiry from the European Commission regarding the possibility of an Agreement of Cooperation or Memorandum of Understanding being executed with IMSO. Such Agreement would include, *inter alia*, inviting the European Commission to attend Sessions of the IMSO Assembly, as an Observer, on a reciprocal basis, in accordance with Rule 5 of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly.

2.2 The European Commission is deeply involved in the implementation of maritime safety services in European waters, including particularly those provided via satellite for the GMDSS, the implementation and operation of Long Range Identification and Tracking for Ships (LRIT) and the development of the Galileo satellite constellation.

2.3 The European Commission represents the interests of the Member States of the European Union and enjoys observer status at IMO and in many other high-level international fora.

2.4 The Director therefore believes that it will be mutually beneficial for the Organization to establish a formal relationship of this nature with the European Commission.

2.5 The Assembly is invited to note that the Director intends to continue discussions with the European Commission with the intention of negotiating an appropriate Agreement of Cooperation with the European Commission, for approval at a future session of the Assembly.

2.6 The Assembly is invited to decide to invite the European Commission to attend:

- (a) future Sessions of the Assembly, as an Observer, on a reciprocal basis, in accordance with Rule 5 of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly; and
- (b) this Session of the Assembly, as an Observer, in accordance with Rule 5 of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly.

### 3 RELATIONS WITH CIRM

3.1 The Director has received an informal enquiry from the Comité International Radio-Maritime (CIRM) regarding the possibility of an Agreement of Cooperation or Memorandum of Understanding being executed with IMSO. Such Agreement would include, *inter alia*, inviting CIRM to attend Sessions of the IMSO Assembly, as an Observer, on a reciprocal basis, in accordance with Rule 5 of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly.

3.2 CIRM is the international non-governmental organization which exists to promote the application of electronic technology to the safety of life and efficient conduct of vessels at sea; and to foster relations between all organisations concerned with electronic aids to marine navigation, communications and information systems. CIRM represents the interests of the marine electronics industry, world wide, including many manufacturers of maritime satellite equipment.

3.3 CIRM has been accredited since 1949 as a non-governmental organisation in consultative status to the International Maritime Organization (IMO). It is also a Sector Member of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU-R and ITU-T), and is a Liaison Member both of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and of the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC). CIRM also enjoys mutual observer status with other relevant international and regional organisations, including the International Hydrographic Office (IHO), the International Association of Lighthouse Authorities (IALA), the International Chamber of Shipping (ICS), and the US Radiotechnical Commission for Maritime (RTCM).

3.4 The Director therefore believes that it will be mutually beneficial for the Organization to establish a formal relationship of this nature with CIRM.

3.5 The Assembly is invited to note that the Director intends to negotiate an appropriate Agreement of Cooperation with CIRM, for approval at a future session of the Assembly.

- 3.6 The Assembly is invited to decide to invite CIRM to attend:
- (a) future Sessions of the Assembly, as an Observer, on a reciprocal basis, in accordance with Rule 5 of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly; and
  - (b) to invite CIRM to attend this Session of the Assembly, as an Observer, in accordance with Rule 5 of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly.
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